



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Pepe, Vice Chair Fritze, Clerk G. Woodbury, Members Stevens & C. Woodbury and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of October 15, 2014 and Executive Session of October 15, 2014 (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

Celebrations Committee member Don Berthiaume announced that the Halloween Party is scheduled for October 31st from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Town Hall, and the Christmas Parade is on December 6th. The Fire Department Association will pay tribute to Firefighter Billy Flannery by naming the Trophy Cup in his honor. A plaque will be presented to his wife and family at the Town Meeting.

Communications

None

New Business

Action Item: Vote to Approve the American Legion Request for the Veteran's Day Parade Permit for Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7 pm

A motion to approve the American Legion request for the Veteran's Day Parade Permit for Tuesday, November 11, 2014 (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote to Approve Request of the Spencer Exchange Club for their Annual Toll Booth on November 8, 2014 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM with a rain/snow date of November 15, 2014

Tom Lowe, president of the Spencer Exchange Club noted that proceeds from the annual Toll Booth are used to purchase warm clothing for students within the SEBRSD.

Motion to approve the request of the Exchange Club to for the Annual Toll Booth on November 8, 2014 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM with a rain/snow date of November 15, 2014 (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Winter Parking Ban Renewal

The Police Department did not request any changes to last year's parking ban.

A motion to renew the Winter Parking Ban for 2014-2015 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/1 (Fritze-no).

Old Business

Action Item: Policy Adoption for Committee Charge for Veterans Memorial in conjunction with Exchange Club project grant

Mr. Gaudette has been working with the Exchange Club and Parks & Rec. utilizing a grant for a Veterans Memorial at Prouty Park.

Mr. Fritze asked if they were working with the Tree Warden. Mr. Gaudette said the committee will obtain feedback from Tree Warden and the public.

A motion to adopt the Veterans Memorial Committee Charge in conjunction with the Exchange Club project (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign Meadow Road Deed (Charlie's Diner)

Mr. Gaudette reported that Town Meeting previously authorized the Board to move forward to allow the owner of Charlie's Diner to purchase a sliver of Town-owned land located on Meadow Road, adjacent to the diner. He asked the Board to authorize him to sign the deed, which has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

A motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Meadow Road Deed for Charlie's Diner (C. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

6:30 – Public Forum Workshop for CDBG Downtown Property Assessment Project – Status Update and Presentation of Property List

Chairman Pepe opened the hearing at 6:36 pm.

Administrator Gaudette announced this is the second public forum for the Downtown Spencer Assessment Project.

Presentations on the status of the redevelopment assessments were held by consultants Bill Scanlon, Brian Barber, Bill Giezentanner, Dan Benoit, and Lisa Davis. Key points included:

- 57 properties were assessed for deficiencies
- Neighborhood infrastructure is not a constraint
- Properties located within Historic Districts are eligible for tax credits
- Environmental constraints exist for properties within the Muzzy Brook buffer zone

- Opportunity for downtown to increase sales with \$25 million being spent by families in the target area; however only \$15 million of it in Spencer.
- Potential for financial aid programs through the State, including historic tax credits.
- Opportunities are attractive buildings with a broad range of potential use, including art galleries and nonprofit housing; obstacles involve poor real estate economy and property owners interested in selling. Reuse options may involve tear down of some structures to create parking.

A final report will be presented at a public forum in December.

The hearing was opened for public comment.

Mr. Pepe asked if communities offer incentives to property owners. Ms. Davis said some do; however financial constraints are an issue. Tax increment plans help with the increase in values.

Tatyana McCauley of McCormick Rd., asked if there has been communication with the Mr. White to improve the appearance of his building and other beautification efforts in the area. Mr. Gaudette pointed out there needs to be a partnership with the project; the Town is handling infrastructure improvements and the hope is that property owners will take responsibility for improving the appearance.

Ed Bemis, owner of Bemis Nursery mentioned that storefront façade programs can be utilized.

Mark Seguin, owner of Cormier Jewelers noted concern over the construction causing loss of business and what can be done to minimize. Mr. Gaudette said with a project of this nature, some disruption is inevitable.

Heide Franken-Malone, Mechanic St., noted certain businesses in the area are thriving, including Apple Blossoms and Five Loaves Bakery and suggested looking to them for ideas.

Lynn Stevens, Ostrich Dr. suggested finding out what incentives other communities have provided.

Mike Toomey suggested looking at fiber optics and housing in target area for college students.

At 8:24 p.m. the hearing was closed. All were in favor.

Town Administrator Report

Discussion: Special Town Meeting and Special Election Update

Administrator Gaudette reported the Warrant has been posted with the Town Clerk and the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of all articles.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens attended a recent School Committee meeting where it was noted that several DPHS students received merit scholarships. He also attended a Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting where he learned about programs available to help local businesses.

Mr. Pepe will attend a meeting on teacher negotiations on November 3rd.

Citizen input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe attended:

- A Special Olympics event at Canterbury Acres, noting it was a great event in a beautiful location
- The Massasoit Art Guild Show
- A retirement party for Firefighter's Charles Phoenix and Peter Lapierre
- He thanked the Leicester-Spencer Eagles and the Exchange Club for their donation to Celebrations Committee to help support the annual Halloween Party

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel

At 8:47 p.m. a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 2, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, and will reconvene only to adjourn (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury -yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Charge for Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee
Special Town Meeting Warrant
2014 CDBG Contract
Deed for Charlie's Diner